

2011 COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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ALSO INSIDE
Spring Football
Kevin Gonzalez
Brooke Coleman
2012 Recruiting
Gregg Alcazar
Lindsey Sisk
And More...



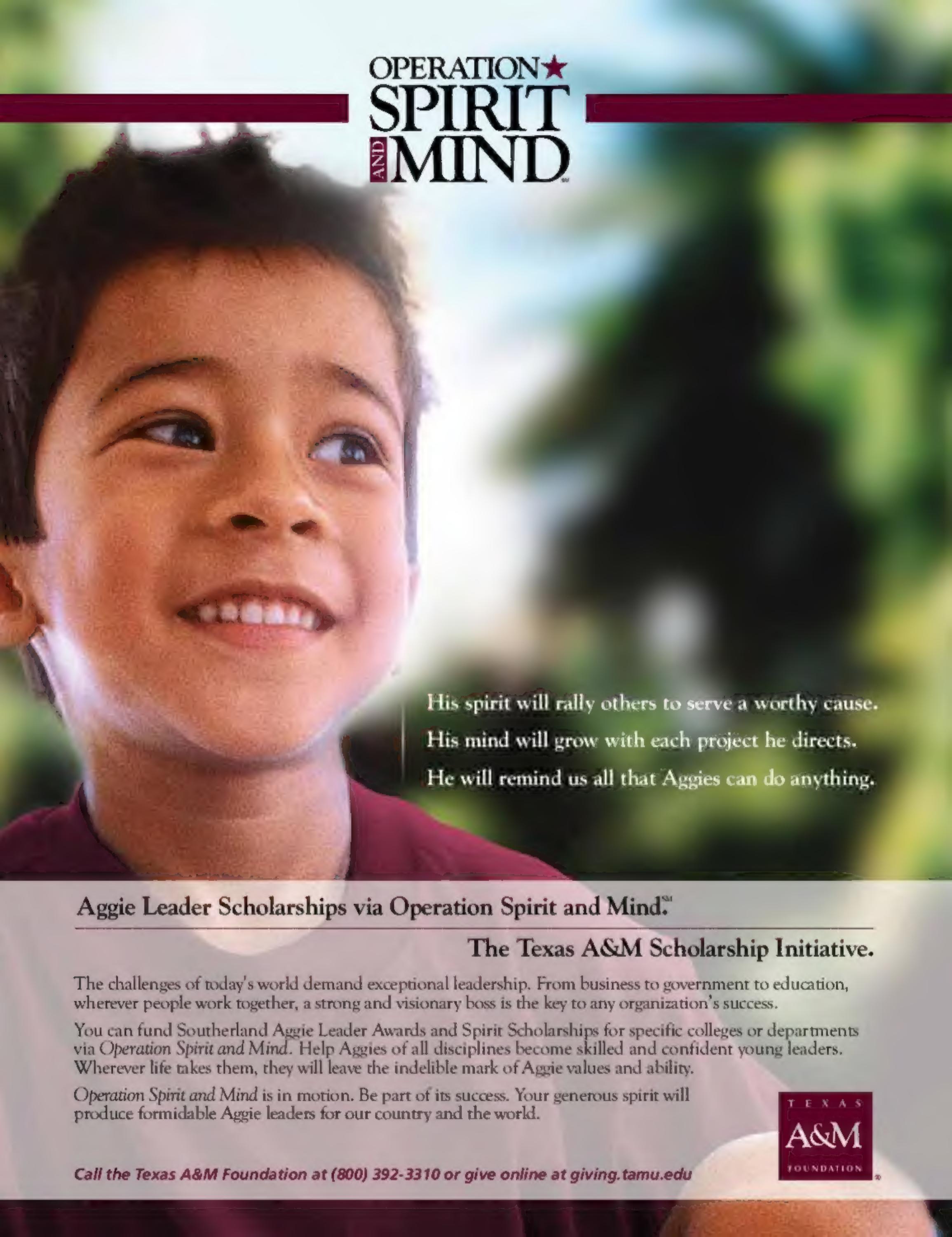
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Mary: It feels like home. I love the garage, washer and dryer and swimming pool. I have zero complaints and love life here!

Evelyn: I moved here to be closer to my daughter and granddaughter. I also started experiencing health problems and wanted to be close to services should I need them. My husband and four children are Aggies, so that also helped us make the decision! The people and staff are wonderful. It's very beautiful and comfortable.

Ross: I had friends who lived here. I love not having to do much cooking! I also love the people, entertainment and that life here is just easy.

Mima: It's gorgeous and was everything I was looking for in a home and more! I love the social aspect of living here. I enjoy water aerobics. My apartment has all of the appliances I had in my house. I also love the people – everyone is so friendly and enjoyable!

Janice: I loved the appearance and knew people who had moved in here. It's very nice and I was drawn to the social programs. I love the food and having someone cook for me every day. I love the social aspect of everyone dining together and enjoy living a stress-free life!

Barbara: I love the fact that optional meal plans were available as well as a garage, washer and dryer and space! I love the people. I also teach crafts, play 42, crochet, and visit a lot!

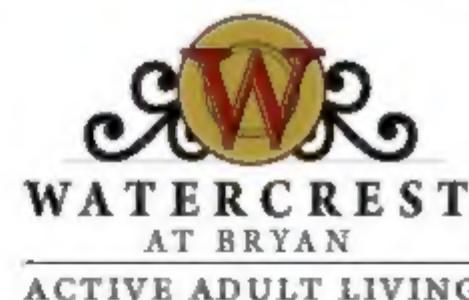
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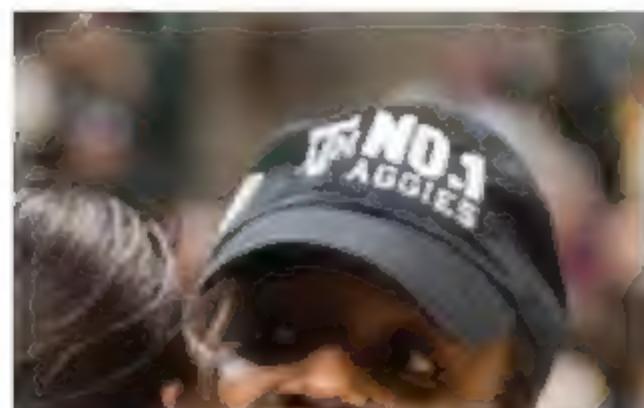
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On the Cover: The National Champion Texas A&M women's basketball team. Photos by Brian Davis '01 and Jason McConnell '01.

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Howdy!

I think it's safe to say that April 2011 will go down as one of the greatest months in Texas A&M sports history.

It all started with the women's basketball team in Indianapolis, making the program's first-ever Final Four appearance. Then, the Aggies went and shocked the sports world by defeating Stanford – the favorite – and Notre Dame – in their home state – to bring the national championship trophy home to Aggieland.

I was one of the lucky ones who got to see the Aggies win the title in person. Minutes before tip-off, the butterflies began swarming in my stomach and I felt like I could throw up all over the court at any moment. I think it was mostly nerves, but the feeling could have carried over from my unfortunate event on our journey to Indy (you can read more about that on page 35). I must have snapped more than 1500 photos during the game and celebration, hoping to capture every moment. It was a surreal experience that I will never forget.

Where were you when the Aggies won the national championship? Email editor@aggiemag.com and tell us your story. Or mail us a note to the address on the facing page. Read some of our "where were you" stories beginning on page 37.

The magical month of April culminated when Aggies all over the world tuned in to the 2011 NFL Draft to see Von Miller walk across the stage and begin his professional football career. Even though it wasn't much of a surprise to hear his name called with the second overall pick to the Denver Broncos, it sure was bittersweet. Called the No. 1 player on the board by many of the draft experts, Miller's amazing rise to become one of the greatest players in A&M football history is a remarkable story – one that many of us will undoubtedly be telling our grandchildren someday. Congratulations to Von and his family! It just goes to show that great things happen to great people.

Thanks for picking up this national championship commemorative issue of *Aggieland Illustrated*. It sure feels good to type that. I'm usually not a greedy person, but in this case, I'm making an exception. Let's bring some more championships to Aggieland!

Gig 'em!

Brian '01

P.S. We are giving away two pairs of tickets to the Aggies vs. Longhorns baseball game on May 19 at Olsen Field! To enter the drawing, send an email to contest@aggiemag.com by May 16 and tell us how many times Gary Blair is pictured in this issue. We will notify the two winners by email on May 17.

Congratulations to the winners of the first AI Bracket Challenge presented by MacResource Computers! First time you've heard about the contest? Follow us on Twitter @aggiemag or fan us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on all of our contests and ticket giveaways.

Aggieland

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snapshot



tears of joy

Seniors Maryann Baker, Sydney Colson and Catherine Snow along with junior Tyra White, share a warm embrace and tears of joy with the A&M coaching staff moments before the final buzzer sounded in the national championship game.

Photo by Brian Davis '01.





TEXAS A&M 0 00.0

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we are the champions

The Texas A&M women's basketball team erupts in jubilation as the final buzzer sounds in the national championship game, signifying the Aggies' 76-70 victory over Notre Dame. With an unforgettable journey through the NCAA Tournament, Gary Blair and company claimed the program's first-ever national title. Photo by Brian Davis '01.

AND THEN
THEY WERE



snap

making history

Junior Kelsey Assarian and senior Sydney Colson sing the Aggie War Hymn following Texas A&M's national championship victory. "It's time to make history," Colson said following the Aggies' thrilling upset over Stanford two days earlier. Indeed, the Aggies made history in Indy. Photo by Brian Davis '01.

Agg
War
Hymn
Nati
Cham

2001
AGGIES



snapshot





gig'em broncos

When the Denver Broncos selected Texas A&M All-American Von Miller in the 2011 NFL Draft, they instantly added thousands of Aggies to their fanbase. Joined by his family on stage, Miller became the fourth Aggie to be selected with the No. 2 overall pick, which is the highest that an A&M player has ever been selected. Photo by Jason DeCrow, AP.

AHEAD OF THE CLASS

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

In our last issue, we took an extensive look at the 22 commitments that comprised the 2011 Texas A&M recruiting class. Yet, in the blink of an eye, the Ags are already more than halfway done with their 2012 signing day haul. And while the last class was regarded as very good, early returns indicate that the 2012 group could be one for the ages.

Here is a glimpse of the very early Aggie commitments, as well as a few names to keep an eye on in the coming months...



trevorKNIGHT (QB)
SA: Reagan (San Antonio, TX)
6-2, 190

Chase the Aggies over Texas, LSU, Texas Tech, Kansas and Baylor

A quarterback the top quarterback prospect in Texas, Knight has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



mattdAVIS (QB)
Klein Forest (Klein, TX)
6-2, 200

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Alabama, Auburn, and Nebraska

Top two schools? Davis is torn between the Aggies and the Aggies. He has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



TROYGREEN (RB)
Brenham (Brenham, TX)
6-1, 185

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

The Ags went "all in" in Brenham, offering the top prospect from the area. In spring of 2011, he was offered by the Aggies, but he chose to play at the University of Texas. He has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



TroyWILLIAMS (RB)
Galveston (Galveston, TX)
6-2, 210
Chase the Aggies over Auburn, Alabama, and Miami

Williams is the son of former Aggie Barry Sanders. He has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



jaelonMOMON (WR)
Hempstead (Hempstead, TX)

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Momon, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



jae'vonRICHARDSON (WR)
Baytown Lee (Baytown, TX)
6-3, 190

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

Richardson is one of the top prospects in the state of Texas. He has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



adrianBELLARD (OL)

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Bellard, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



MikeMATTHEWS (OL)
Elkins (Missouri City, TX)
6-3, 260

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

Matthews is one of the top prospects in the state of Texas. He has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



michaelWILSON (OL)

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Wilson, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



loganDAVID (DT)
Blinn JC (Brenham, TX)
6-3, 300

Chase the Aggies over Texas Tech

The Aggies are one of the top schools for David, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



ericDAVIS (DE)
John Tyler Community JC
6-4, 220

Chase the Aggies over Texas Tech

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Davis, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



TyrekeTAYLOR (DE)
Galena Park (Galena Park, TX)

Chase the Aggies over Texas Tech

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Taylor, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



MikeMATTHEWS (OL)
Elkins (Missouri City, TX)
6-3, 260

Chase the Aggies over Texas, Oklahoma, and Baylor

The Aggies are one of the top schools for Matthews, who has offers from the likes of Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Baylor, Kansas, and Nebraska. He has also been offered by the Aggies.



alonzoWILLIAMS (DL)
Abbeville (LA) (Abbeville, LA)

6-4, 250

Chose the Aggies over Georgia, Tennessee and Illinois

The Ags continue their ascent in the recruiting race in the Pelican State. Williams is a pursuit of the Ags, who are much upped in his prospect. He is a 3-star recruit who can play tight end or at the line.



michaelRICHARDSON (LB)
Coppell (TX) (Coppell, TX)

4-4, 200

Richardson came to Bryan camp last year and immediately caught the Jones attention. As a junior at the school, Richardson was part of a third year of success for the Ags. A combination of mea- and a great defense. The fact that he's from the same state as the Ags and Richardson to the Ags a great plus.



jordanRICHMOND (LB)
Denton Ryan (Denton, TX)

4-4, 200

Chose the Aggies over Ok St, OU, Arizona, Arkansas and Stanford

Arguably the state's top LB prospect, Richardson is one of the top prospects in the state. It's easy to see why with his nose for the ball and his desire to defend. Richardson is a top prospect for the Ags.



coreyTHOMPSON (DB)
Elkins (Missouri City, TX)

5-11, 175

A dynamic playmaker position, Thompson is another top priority in 2012. Hailing from the same high school as the Matthews, Thompson is exactly the type of fast, physical prospect that the Ags need in the secondary.



marlonMONROE (ATH)
East St. John (LA) (Reserve, LA)

5-11, 175

Chose the Aggies over LSU, Ole Miss and Tulane

The infamous Floyd Raven saga of 2011 continues to benefit A&M's recruiting efforts. Monroe is the son of Raven, a former Aggie, who is now a stand out player in the NFL. Monroe is be ranked among the top players in the state.

Who will be next to commit? Keep an eye on Crowley Louisiana's Denzel Duvall (LB), Fort Bend Hightower's Bralon Addison (WR/DB), Van's Dalton Santos (LB), Waco La Vega's Michael Starts (DL), San Antonio Brandel's Collin Blake (CB) and Port Arthur Memorial's Trey Singleton (CB).

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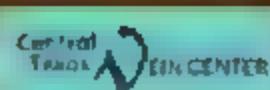


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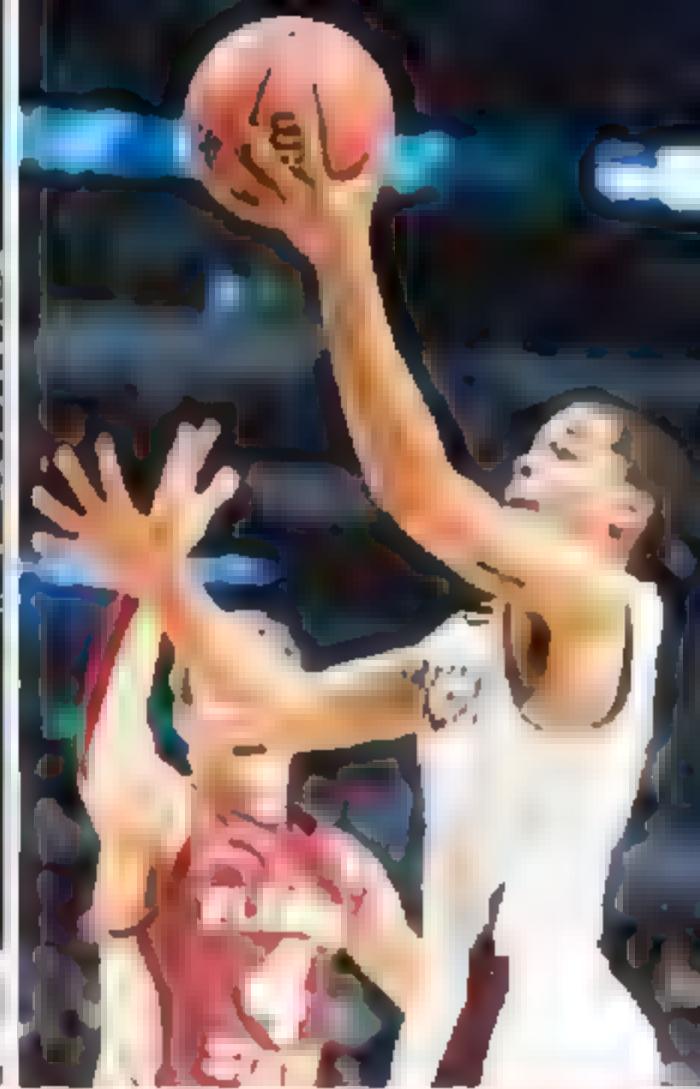
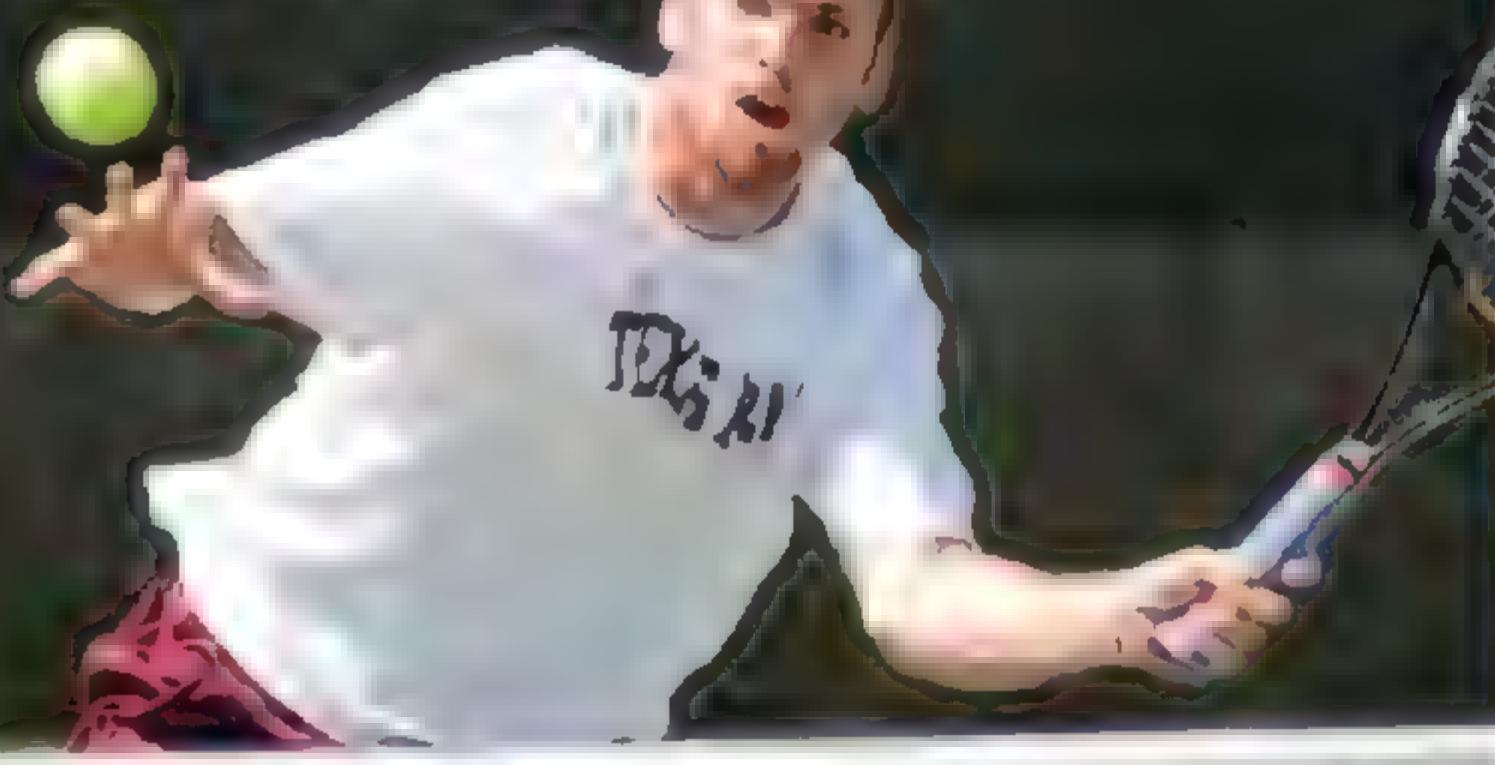
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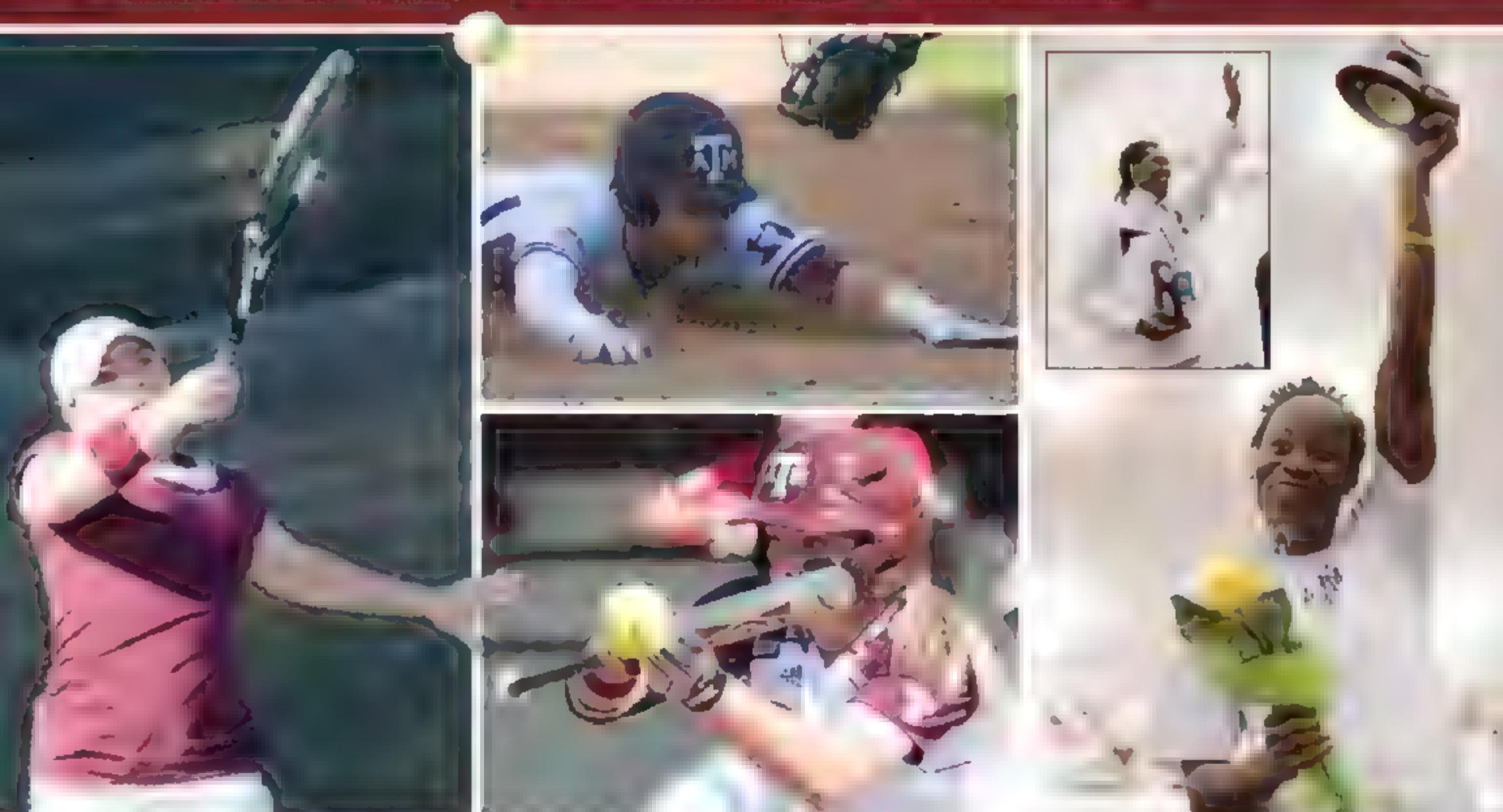
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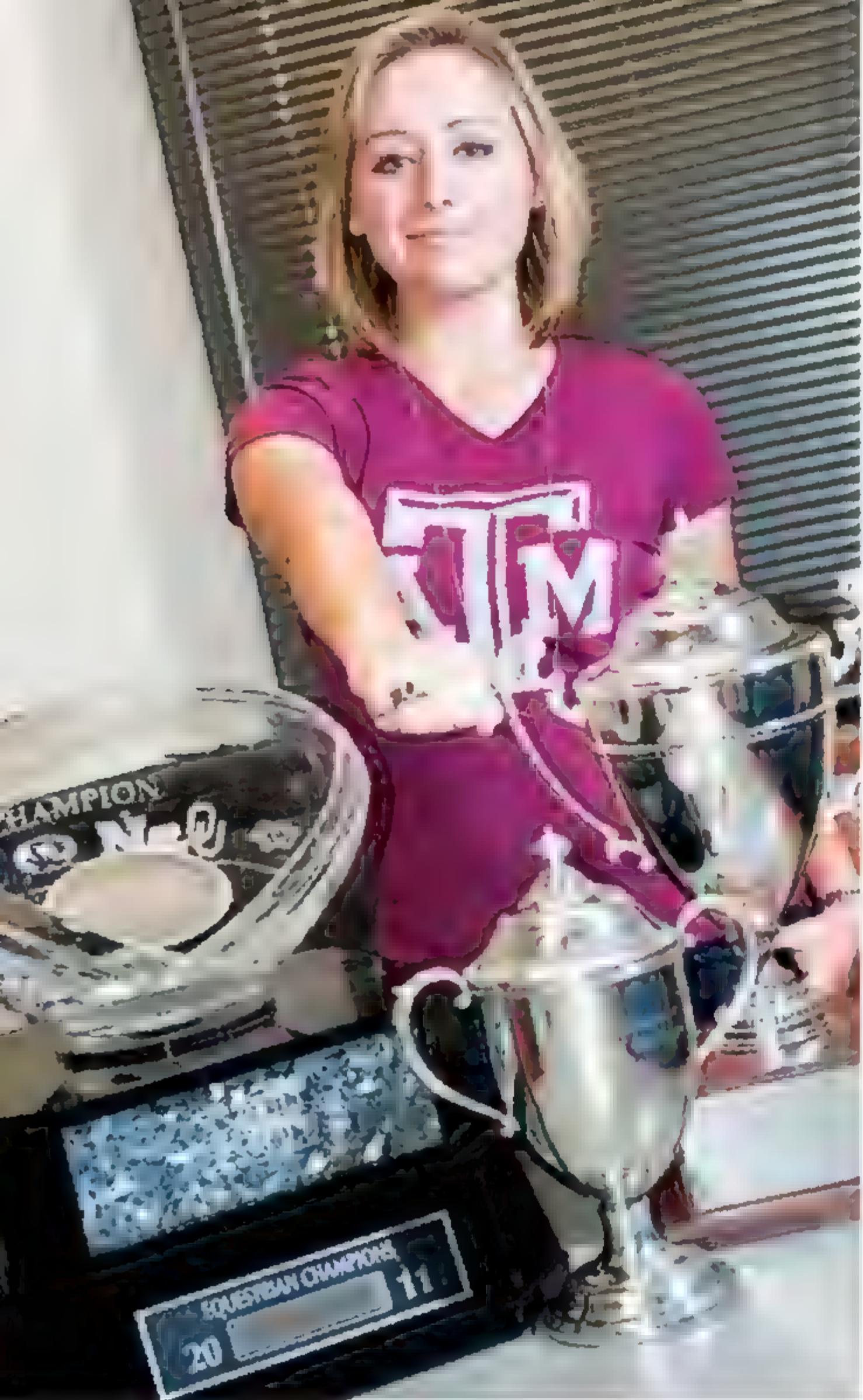
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(men's tennis) and by another 10.5 percent in women's basketball (men). The Aggie basketball team finished the regular season 24-10 overall in the 2000-01 season (tied for 10th in the Big 12). Player of the Year: Austin (men's basketball). The Texas A&M men's basketball team reached the 24-win mark for the 20th straight year (only the second 24-win season in the program's 20-year history) and made its 10th straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament (formerly, the Marshall Aggies were eliminated by Florida State (the 1980s) and North Carolina (1990s) from the tournament). The 20th-ranked men's basketball team finished the regular season with a 24-10 record (24-10 in Big 12) and advanced to the conference tournament (one of three wins in the tournament). Morgan Frank (basketball) became the first player in Big 12 history to appear in all four individual tournaments (baseball). Behind one of the best pitching rosters in the country, the No. 10 Aggie baseball team has an excellent opportunity to join another Big 12 title and to exceed top eight national seed for the NCAA Tournament. As the year goes on, Bryan Carter (softball) is carrying up Big 12 pitching during his college career, winning multiple conference Player of the Week honors along the way. (softball) The No. 10 Aggie softball team was ranked by *MaxPreps* as the 12th best team in the country and made some noise in the postseason (softball). The Aggie baseball team finished second and the women's basketball team finished 10th at the NCAA basketball championships on the Texas A&M campus in March (both teams became the first Aggie teams to advance to the Final Four).





missAGGIE

Texas A&M senior Brooke Coleman's passion for horseback riding has led her down a remarkable road

BY KELSEY KEENE '12

Deciding to move 2,000 miles away from home is pretty substantial regardless of the circumstances. Deciding to move 2,000 miles away from home and your family when you are only 13 years old is life-altering. However, that's precisely the choice that senior Brooke Coleman made to fulfill her dreams in the equestrian world.

Coleman sat on a horse for the first time at her family's ranch when she was just three years old. When she was six, her mother introduced her to English riding. She got her first pony, "Peekaboo," when she was seven.

"She liked to go very fast, which didn't exactly make her an ideal learning pony," Coleman recalled.

Coleman immediately realized her passion for English style riding and began to take lessons at a nearby barn. She also began to compete.

While competing in Virginia, Coleman met a girl who trained and competed on the East Coast. The girl shared her training and show experiences and introduced Coleman to her trainer. Coleman knew that was what she wanted to do and was where she needed to be to reach her full potential.

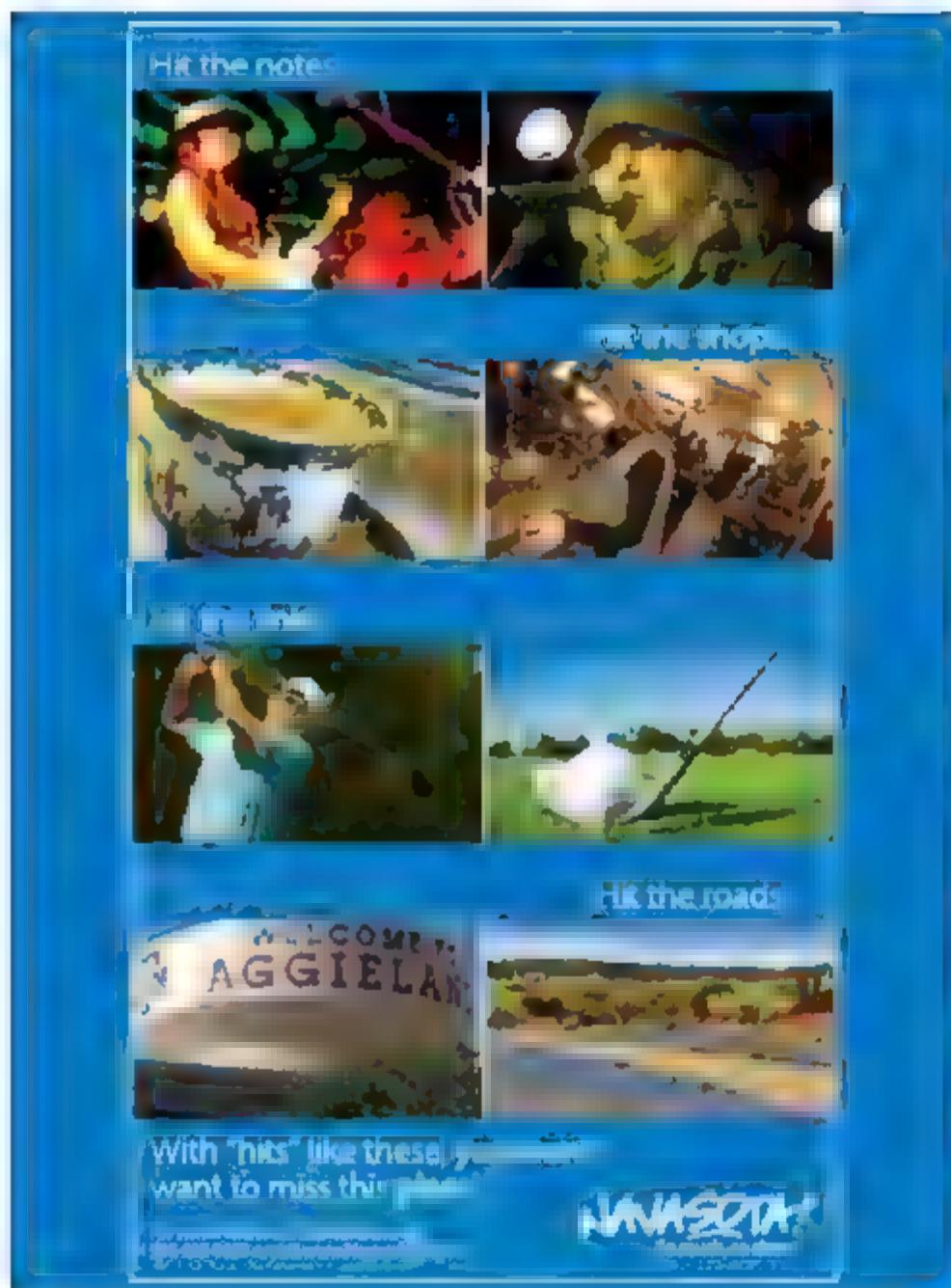
"I wanted to be the best, so I needed to compete against the best," Coleman said.

With support from her parents, Coleman made the decision to move to Cape Cod, Massachusetts when she was 13 and began training.

She spent the next several years traveling on the show circuit. From January through April, she competed in Florida. During those four months, she would also complete a full year of school through the University of Nebraska Independent Study Program. Over the summer, Coleman continued to compete in cities throughout the northeast. In August it was back to the Cape to train for finals, which were in the fall.

The circuit continued in Washington D.C., New Jersey and Pennsylvania as well as areas of New England, all leading up to the Maclay Finals in Syracuse, New York – the national championship for equitation. Winning the Maclay Regionals in 2006 is one of her biggest accomplishments.

The Aggie equestrian coaches were well aware of Coleman's success and began recruiting her while she was in Florida. At first she was hesitant – not sure



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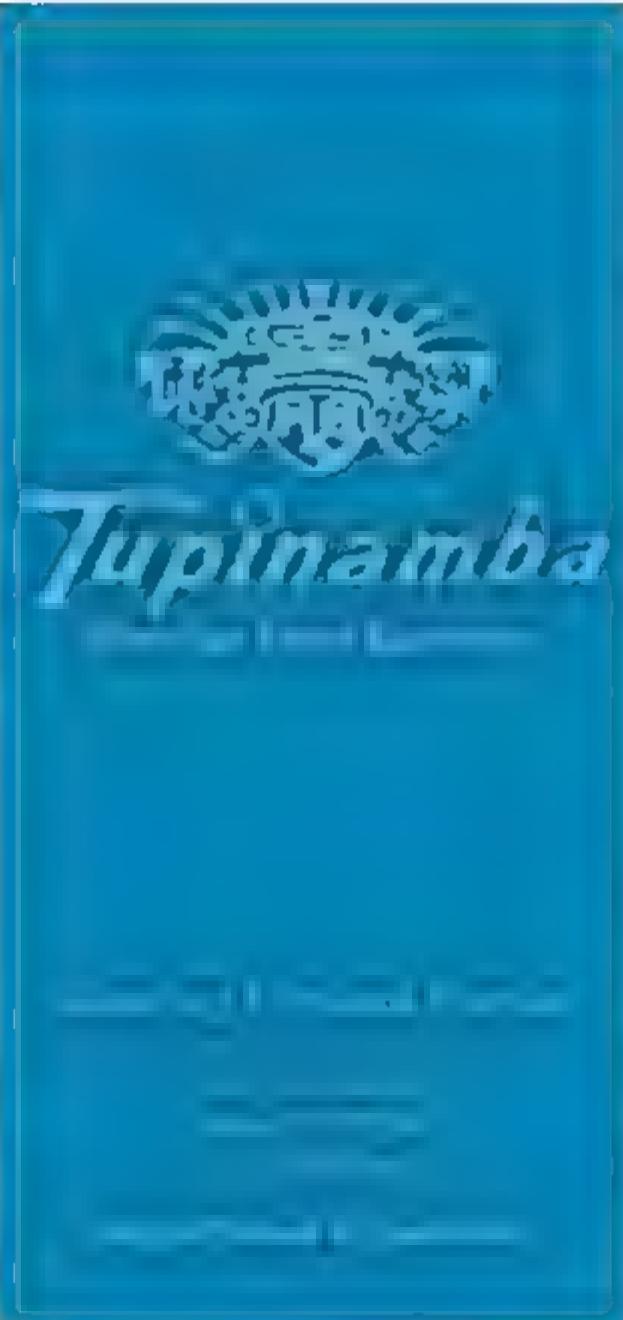
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if she wanted to go to college at all. She ultimately decided to visit the campus and was immediately impressed by the spirit, tradition and people in Aggieland. Although the format of competition was much different then what she was used to, she decided the school was a good fit for her.

"I looked at it as a new challenge," Coleman said. "It's a lot of fun and a really hard challenge."

One of the biggest changes was taking an individual sport and making it a team sport.

"If I go in and I lose my round it's not game over," she said. "That's the beauty of having teammates. It's a great experience that anyone would be lucky to have."

In February, Coleman represented Texas A&M at the second annual Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) Collegiate Equitation Challenge in south Florida. On the plane ride east, Coleman's ears began to clog. By the time the plane landed, she was in pain and barely able to hear. After taking in a few practice rounds, Coleman went to the doctor and discovered that her ear drums had expanded and she had bronchitis. She was in pain, but not discouraged.

"When I ride I don't pay attention to pain or anything I am feeling," she admitted.

Coleman rode through the pain all the way to the WEF championship. In the finals, she downed defending champion Maggie McAlary of Auburn to bring the title home to Aggieland.

"It was neat to be able to do that for my team," Coleman said. "I don't look at it as 'I won,' I look at it as 'Texas A&M won.'"

Horse riding has been the focal point of much of Coleman's life and it has helped her overcome several adversities along the way. Before she moved away from home, she was constantly picked on by other kids in school.

"I had to change middle schools because of it," she admitted. "It was a part of the reason why I decided to move away. I already had no confidence or self-esteem and knew things would only get worse in high school."

Bullying had a huge impact on her childhood and she wants to use that experience in the future to help kids like her who go through the same things.

"It has not been an easy ride to the top," she admits. "It's been a very difficult one. Moving away and developing myself through horses made me a much stronger and more confident person."

When she's finished at A&M, Coleman has an opportunity waiting on her to become a professional rider. However, right now, she doesn't think she's going to take it. She wants riding to become more of a hobby, and less of an occupation.

After graduation, Coleman plans to spend the summer in Houston and then make another life-altering move. This time, she is headed west to Hollywood to pursue her dreams in the entertainment industry.

"My ultimate dream is to ride a horse in a movie," she said. "In full medieval dress galloping through a forest or maybe even stunt riding."

Her favorite horse movie – *Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken*. ■

"My brother, Brad, also left home at a young age to train to become a race car driver and now drives for the Joe Gibbs Racing team in the NASCAR series. We both have horsepower in a sense. He has a lot more than me though."

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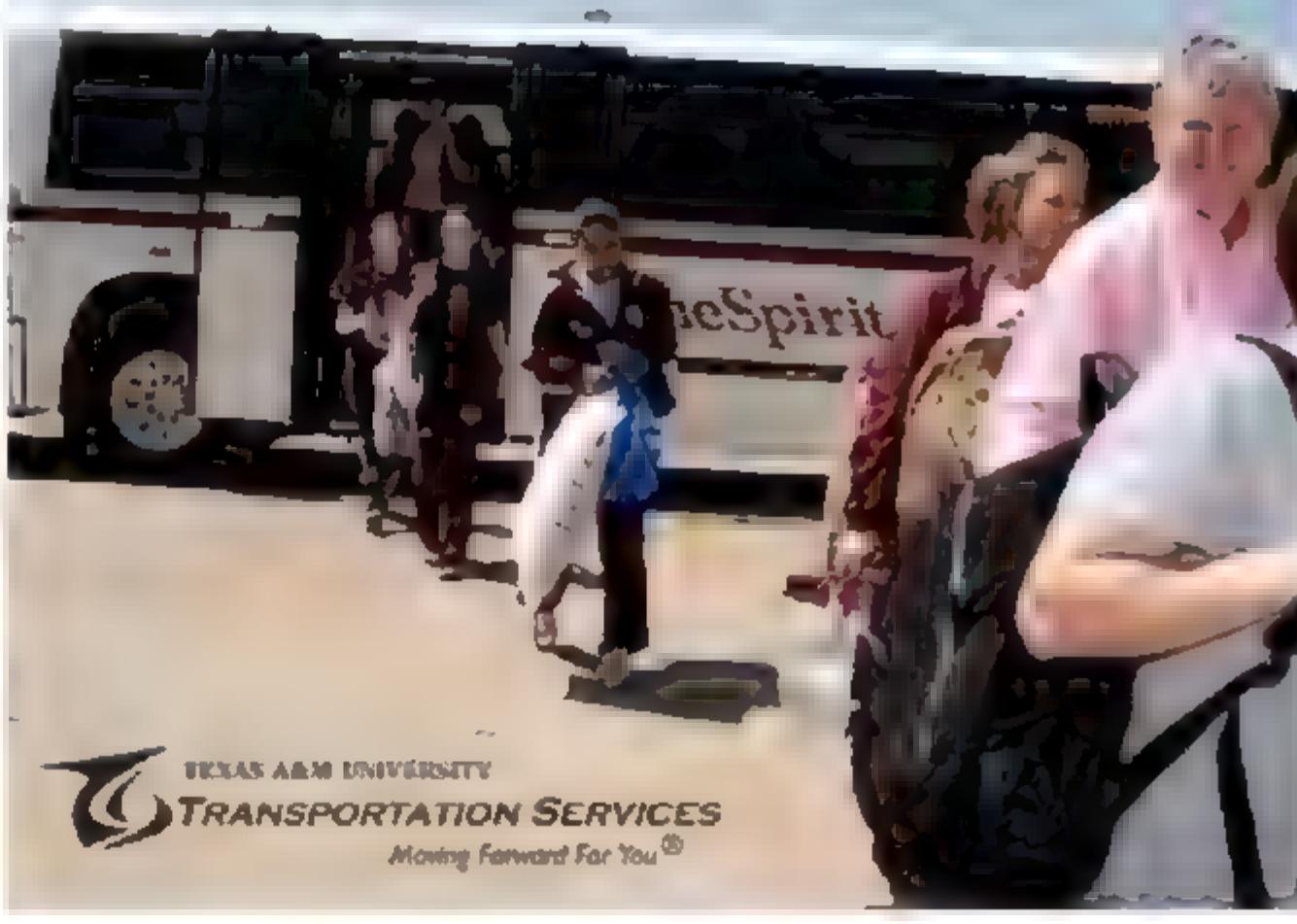
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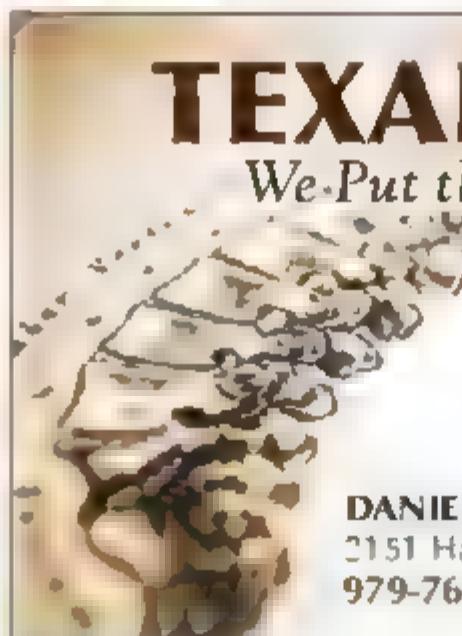
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THE



RIGHT FIT

From California to Arizona to Aggieland, junior Lindsey Sisk has finally found her home on the A&M softball team
BY KELSEY KEENE '12

The road has been long, and she has made a few stops along the way, but Lindsey Sisk has finally found her home in Aggieland. Following a transfer from the University of Arizona and an injury-plagued 2010 season, things are looking up for the junior softball player.

Born and raised in Murrieta, California, Sisk began her softball career when she was ten years old. At the time she was riding horses competitively and had no intentions of playing. In fact, when her father told her he had signed her up to play softball she began to cry.

"Turns out I happened to love it, so I am thankful for that," Sisk said.

Pitching soon became a skill that Sisk wanted to focus on, so she and her father began practicing two or three times a week in their backyard. Practicing paid off, and she began to pitch in games. Once Sisk was serious about pitching, she began consistently going to a pitching coach – one of her father's friends.

"He told me that if I wanted to be good I would have to work hard and, eventually, my workouts went to five or six times a week," Sisk said.

During her freshman year of high school, Sisk received her first recruitment letter from the University of Florida. The letters continued to arrive throughout her sophomore and junior years from schools in the Big 12, SEC and Pac 10 including the University of Arizona – one of the premier programs in the nation.

"I always wanted to go to Arizona," Sisk admitted. "When I was little, it was my dream school."

Her official visit to Arizona was the deciding factor. Sisk felt that the school was a good fit for her.

Sisk posted a 10-3 record on the mound during her freshman year at Arizona. As a sophomore, she finished 13-5, striking out 86 batters in 107 innings.

Although she had two successful years there, Sisk felt like Arizona wasn't the right place for her after all. After discuss-

ing the possibility of transferring with her father and former coaches, Sisk decided that looking at other schools was what she needed to do.

Once she was granted a release from Arizona, Sisk began looking at the University of Florida, Northwestern, Baylor and Texas A&M. She narrowed down her choices to the Florida and A&M.

While playing for Arizona, Sisk had the chance to come to College Station and play against the Aggies.

"I got to see the school and the Sugar Daddies screaming and yelling," she recalled.

The atmosphere was one reason for her decision to transfer to A&M. Another was the Aggies' head coach, Jo Evans.

"She is very honest with me and is your biggest fan all of the time," Sisk said. "She really sets the tone and makes players want to come here and play for her."

Upon arriving in Aggieland, Sisk immediately felt like part of the family. From the first day that she walked on the field and met the rest of the girls, she felt like a part of the team.

"The girls are amazing and we all get along great and have great chemistry," she said.

One week before the season started, Sisk was more than ready to play. Then the unthinkable happened. On Super Bowl Sunday she was cutting an avocado to make guacamole when the knife slipped, cutting the tendon connected to her middle finger. Instead of taking the field as an Aggie for the first time, Sisk needed surgery that would sideline her from four to six weeks. She spent her time in rehab, doing homework and watching the team practice.

Finally, the time came for Sisk to get back on the field. Then, one day while Sisk was practicing, the previously injured tendon detached again.

"I didn't feel it at all," Sisk recalled. "But I went to therapy and I couldn't bend it."

The injury required surgery and six more weeks in a splint. When the time finally came for her to be released, Sisk was ready to finally get on the field. As luck would have it, right after she got back on the field, Sisk was caught in a run-down in practice, fell, and tore her ACL.

"She hadn't tagged me yet, I went down before she tagged me, or I would have been out," Sisk said.

As the saying goes, three strikes and you're out. After tearing her ACL, Sisk was forced to redshirt in the 2010 season.

"It was devastating," she admitted. "I was really upset about it. But, I knew the team would be just fine and I still had two more years to play."

Now, things are finally coming together for Sisk. She has recovered completely from each injury and has teamed with sophomore Mel Dumezich to give the Aggies a tandem of aces on the mound.

"Pitching is coming along, and I'm really happy with what I am seeing right now," Sisk said.

She recalls her first time to finally get to play in maroon and white with a smile. The experience was long-awaited and very exciting.

"I have a passion for the game," Sisk said. "It's nice to play again." ■





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The Aggies' incredible journey to the top of the women's college basketball world

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



SHREVEPORT, LA

1ST ROUND MARK H. : TEXAS A&M 87, MCNEESE STATE 47

2ND ROUND MARCH 11: TEXAS A&M 70, RUTGERS 48

Category	Sub-Category	Definition	Example
A	Alphabetic	Letters of the alphabet	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
	Alphanumeric	Letters and numbers	A1, B2, C3, D4, E5, F6, G7, H8, I9, J0, K1, L2, M3, N4, O5, P6, Q7, R8, S9, T0, U1, V2, W3, X4, Y5, Z6
B	Binary	0 and 1	0, 1
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
C	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
D	Decimal	Base 10 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
	Binary	Base 2 digits	0, 1
E	Exponential	Scientific notation	1.23e10, 3.14e-9, 2.718e0
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
F	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
G	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
H	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
I	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
J	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
K	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
L	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
M	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
N	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
O	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
P	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
Q	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
R	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
S	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
T	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
U	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
V	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
W	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
X	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
Y	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F
	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Z	Octal	Base 8 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
	Hexadecimal	Base 16 digits	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, A, B, C, D, E, F



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After dissecting the costs of flights versus gas prices, Jason and I jumped in the car for an unforgettable journey across the country to follow the Aggie basketball teams in the opening rounds of the men's and women's NCAA Tournaments. Here are some of the highlights from our adventure, which I'll admit are mostly about the food we ate.

DOWN HOME WITH THE NEELYS

You would be foolish to drive through Memphis at lunchtime and not stop for some BBQ. Without hesitation, Jason knew exactly where we needed to stop - Neely's Bar B Que in west Memphis. The small restaurant, famous for creating the Food Network show *Down Home with the Neelys*,



the outside, but the Memphis style pulled pork was very tasty. Jason sweet talked the waitress into giving us a couple of ribs to try and I had a slice of BBQ spaghetti for the first time. Surprisingly, it was like spaghetti with a mixture of tomato and BBQ sauces mixed in.

THE PERFECT SANDWICH

After 18 hours of driving we finally made it to Chicago. Exhausted and starving, our first stop was at Portillo's Hot Dogs. Jason had been telling me about Portillo's and their Italian beef sandwiches ever since he visited



Chicago last summer. "Get the combo sandwich, dipped," he recommended. Italian beef, char-grilled sausage and peppers (spicy or sweet) in a french bread hoagie. And "dipping" means the whole sandwich is submerged in the gravy that the meat is cooked in before it's served. Yes, it was messy and yes, it was delicious.

RIDING THE 'L'

One of my favorite things about visiting major metropolitan cities is experiencing their methods of public transportation. It always seems to be an adventure and is usually a great place to see interesting locals. The highlight of riding the 'L' was being serenaded by a performer looking for donations on one of our longer rides.



CHICAGO STYLE

We knew a trip to Chicago wouldn't be complete without eating some pizza, so finding a Gino's East was on our must do list. After some morning sightseeing, we decided there was just enough time to stuff ourselves with a Chicago deep dish before heading to the United Center. Unfortunately Jason made his first mistake of the trip - trusting me to navigate us as we walked the streets of Chicago. In my defense there is a Gino's East at Jackson Blvd and Jefferson St. according to Google maps on my iPhone. Well, there's not one there - trust and there's not one close, either. So we decided to postpone Gino's until after the game. We did ultimately find one after the game and it was excellent. And it was the first time Jason and I have ever eaten somewhere and both left uneaten food on the table.

THE HOUSE THAT JORDAN BUILT

Even though the outcome was disappointing, watching the Aggies play in the United Center was a special treat for me. I grew rooting for the Bulls during their dynasty and Michael Jordan is my favorite athlete of all time. I regret never getting to see Jordan play in person, so even though the Aggies were outscored, it was memorable to see the venue where he once dominated on the court.



THE FRIENDLY CONFINES

As a lifelong Astros fan, I haven't really enjoyed pro baseball for the past

few years, but seeing Wrigley Field in person was always on my bucket list. I still want to see a game there some day, but this experience will suffice for now. I'll have to plan my next trip to the "Windy City" during baseball season.



AI GOES TO WHITE CASTLE - FOR BREAKFAST

Jason grew up in Kentucky where they have White Castles on every corner so needless to say, he had to get his fix in while we were in the right region. Unfortunately, our time in Chicago ended up being shorter than we had hoped no thanks to the Florida St. basketball team, so our only opportunity to have White Castle was for breakfast on the way out of town. That didn't stop Jason from getting his fix while I experienced my first White Castle sliders.



DETOUR TO AMISH COUNTRY

On the LONG road back from Chicago, our curiosity got the best of us as we continued to see signs for an Amish community in Arthur, IL. It was getting close to noon, so Jason did a quick google search for dining options in Arthur. When he scrolled to "Yoder's Kitchen" on the list we both knew right away where we were having lunch. Sure, we had seen the Amish in movies, but it was a surreal experience to watch them traveling



the streets by horse drawn carriage, using horses to plow a field and the many clothes hung out to dry at each home. Oh and our food was good, too. It's hard to go wrong with lots of butter, flour and milk. Plus, we figured the chicken was pretty fresh. As a chicken noodle soup fan, I enjoyed their specialty noodles and mashed potatoes.

BUTTERMILK RANCH

Anyone who knows me can tell you that I have a weakness for ranch dressing. Not just any ranch dressing, but the good homemade stuff. If I could get it into my body through an IV and survive, I would do it. One of my all time favorite ranch dressings is a buttermilk concoction at The Faded Rose in Little Rock, AR served with some giant steak fries. Even though it was nearly 10 p.m. when we drove bad through "The Rock," Jason and I made the stop so that I could get my ranch fix. Order the large steak fries appetizer with a side of buttermilk and you won't be disappointed.



CAJUN FEAST

When searching for some Louisiana Creole cuisine for lunch in Shreveport Jason discovered an establishment called Brother's Seafood that was a little off the beaten path, but had great reviews.

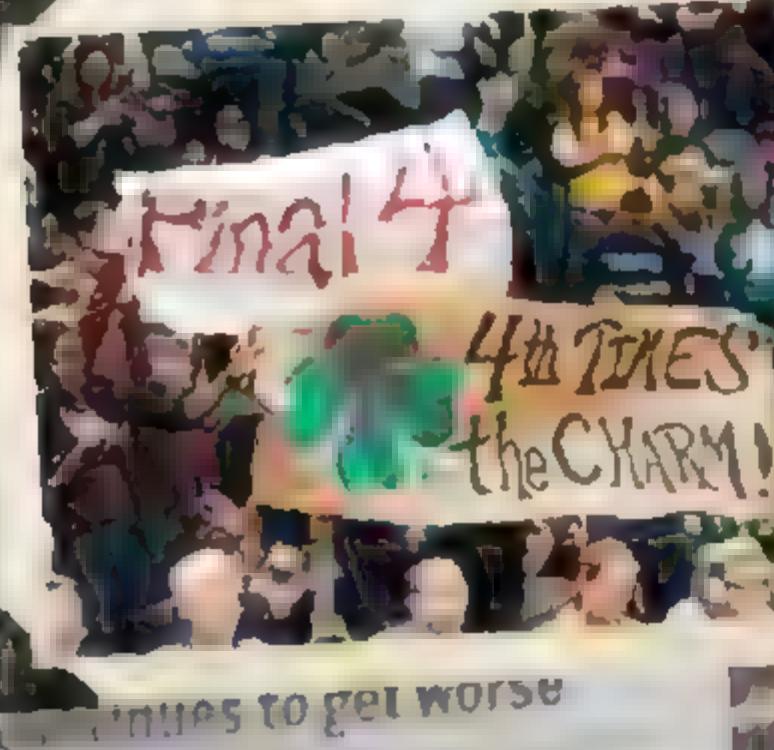


After pulling into the parking lot, we seriously considered stopping, turning around and quickly exiting. However, we decided to live dangerously and go inside. When we walked in, we noticed there were only two occupied tables and I began to further doubt Jason's decision. Then, as our eyes began to focus on

one of the tables, we noticed one of the patrons was none other than Bill Byrne, Texas A&M's athletic director. After a brief exchange of pleasant conversation as if he was a regular, assured us that the cuisine was superb. I was tasting, but I don't want to know what was in it. I always say, if you can't identify a creature by its skeleton, then you're better off not knowing what it was. For the main course, we feasted on a platter of fried catfish, fried and stuffed shrimp, fried oysters, french fries and rice with gravy. We were both stuffed, but knowing that it was our first visit, the waitress graciously brought us some of their home made apple pie, on the house. Needless to say the next time we're in Shreveport, another visit to Brother's will be on the menu.



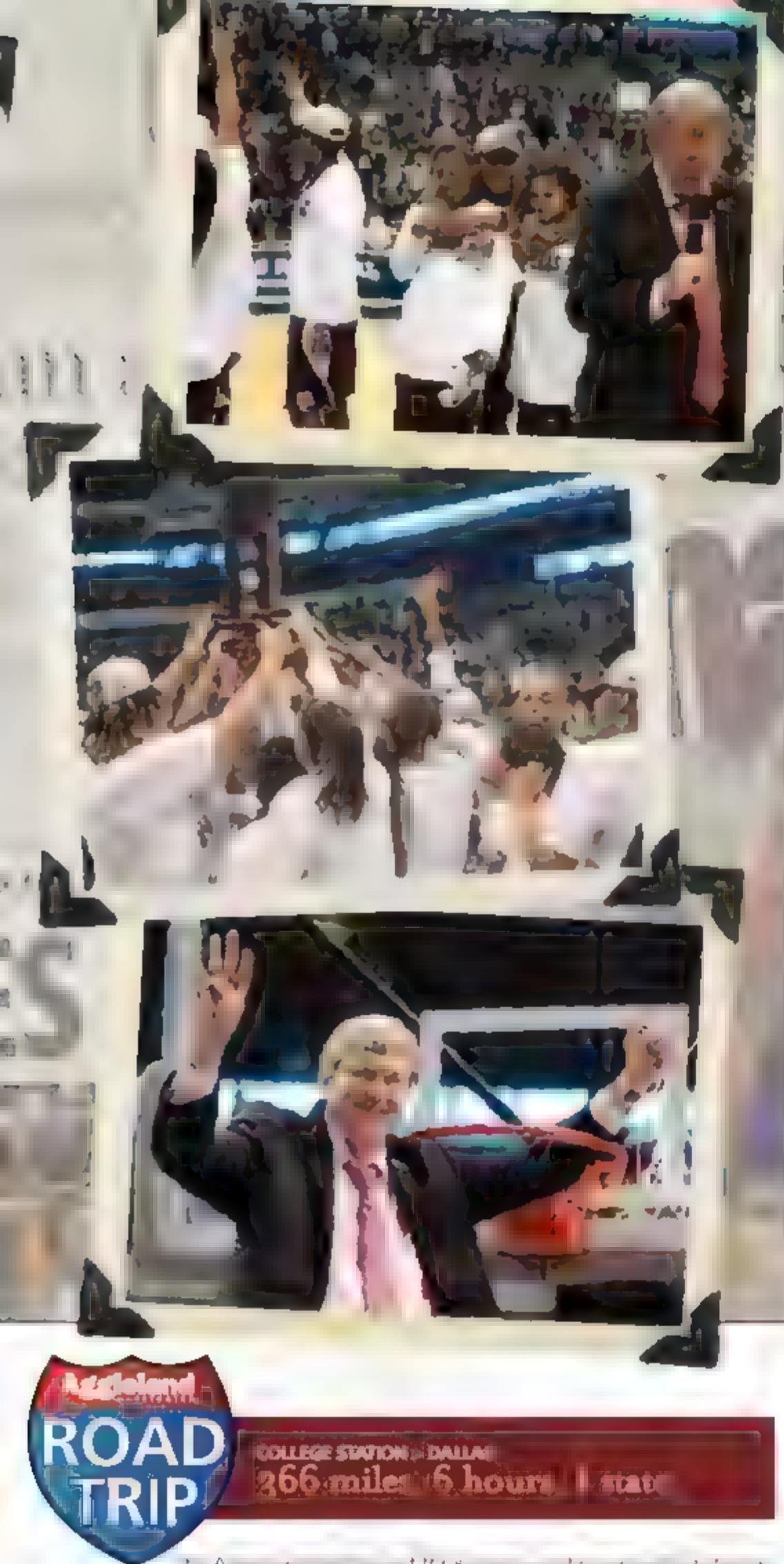
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ELITE EIGHT (MARCH 29): TEXAS A&M 58, BAYLOR 46



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After a year of trying to get the Aggies to the Final Four, the Aggies finally made it to the Final Four. The Aggies had to go through a lot of ups and downs to get to the Final Four. They had to overcome many obstacles, including injuries and losses. The Aggies' resilience and determination paid off, and they finally reached their goal of becoming national champions.

THE AGGIES RISE TO THE OCCASION

After a year of trying to get the Aggies to the Final Four, the Aggies finally made it to the Final Four. The Aggies had to go through a lot of ups and downs to get to the Final Four. They had to overcome many obstacles, including injuries and losses. The Aggies' resilience and determination paid off, and they finally reached their goal of becoming national champions.

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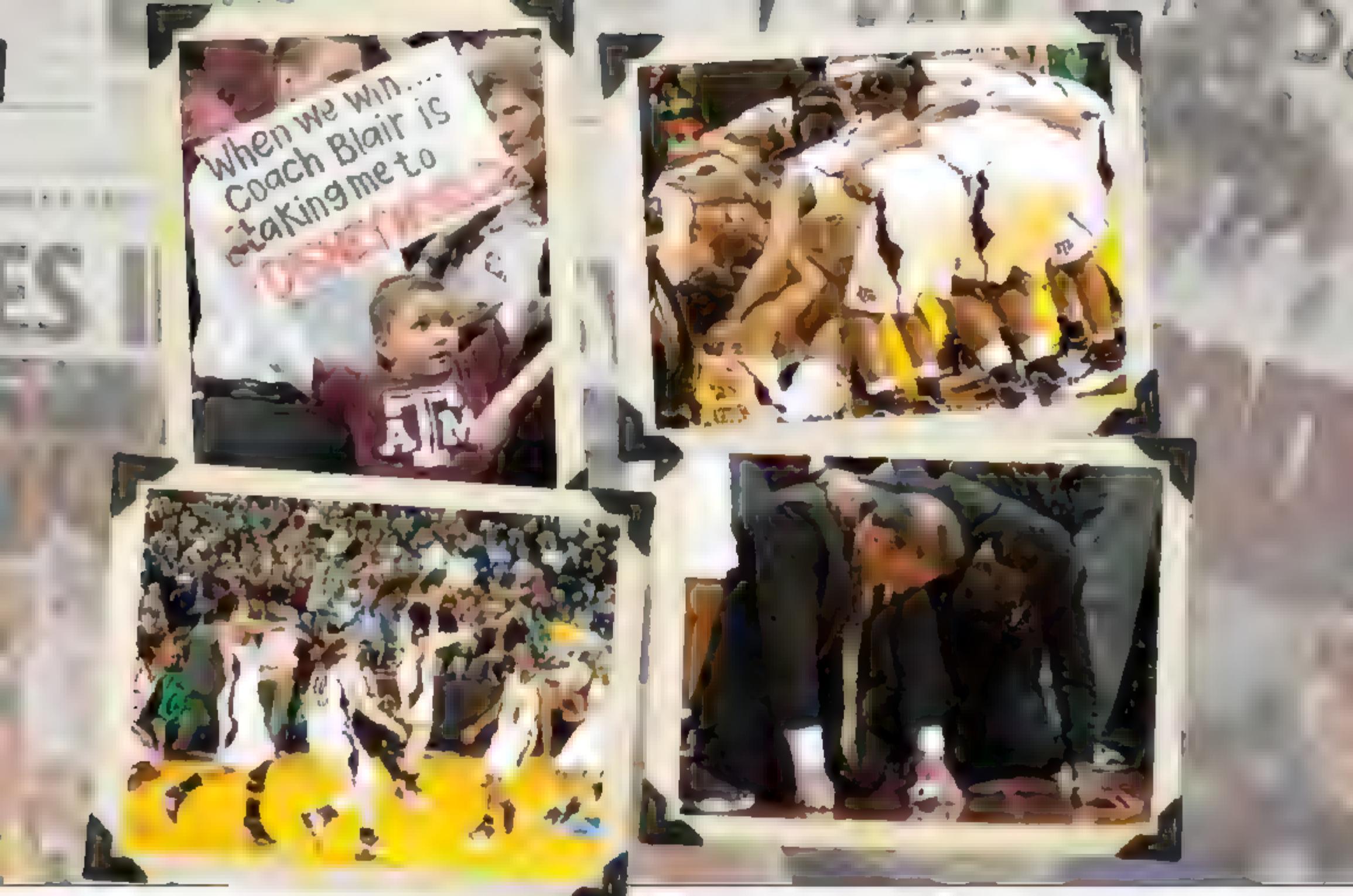
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LAST MINUTE FLIGHT

After a long day of practice, the team had to catch a flight to Indianapolis. The flight was delayed, and the team had to wait for hours. They finally got on the plane, but the flight was delayed again. The team was exhausted, but they were determined to make it to the game.

BLOWING OVER BALTIMORE

The team had a game in Baltimore, but the weather was terrible. The stadium was closed due to a severe thunderstorm. The team had to play in a nearby hotel. They were able to practice in the hotel's gym, but the weather was still bad. The team was determined to win, and they did. They beat the Ravens 24-17.

After a long day of practice, the team had to catch a flight to Indianapolis. The flight was delayed, and the team had to wait for hours. They finally got on the plane, but the flight was delayed again. The team was exhausted, but they were determined to make it to the game.

SLEEP IS OVERRATED

The team had a game in Baltimore, but the weather was terrible. The stadium was closed due to a severe thunderstorm. The team had to play in a nearby hotel. They were able to practice in the hotel's gym, but the weather was still bad. The team was determined to win, and they did. They beat the Ravens 24-17.



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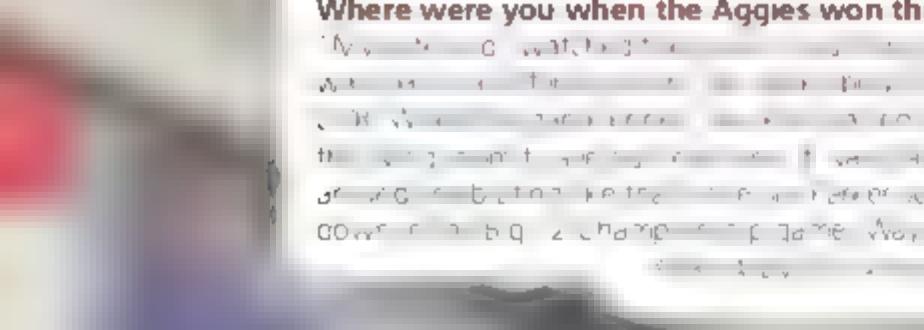
Where were you when the Aggies won the championship?



Where were you when the Aggies won the championship?



Where were you when the Aggies won the championship?



Where were you when the Aggies won the championship?

As a result of a 10-0 victory over the Auburn State Trojans, Aggie football is once again being ranked in the top 10. This is the moment where Aggie fans, who know the Aggie battle has been fought so many times, are hoping for being able to share in the fruits of the experience. The Aggies placed 10th in the record-tieing 2009 Orange Bowl, but it's no secret that the NCAA is ranking the Aggies higher this year. As a result, the Aggies are looking to move up the list. The Aggies are currently ranked 10th in the nation. The Aggies had a solid performance last year, but the Aggies have many more prospects this year. Aggie fans are looking forward to the Aggies' future.



Where were YOU when the Aggies won the championship?
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Where were you when the Aggies won the championship?

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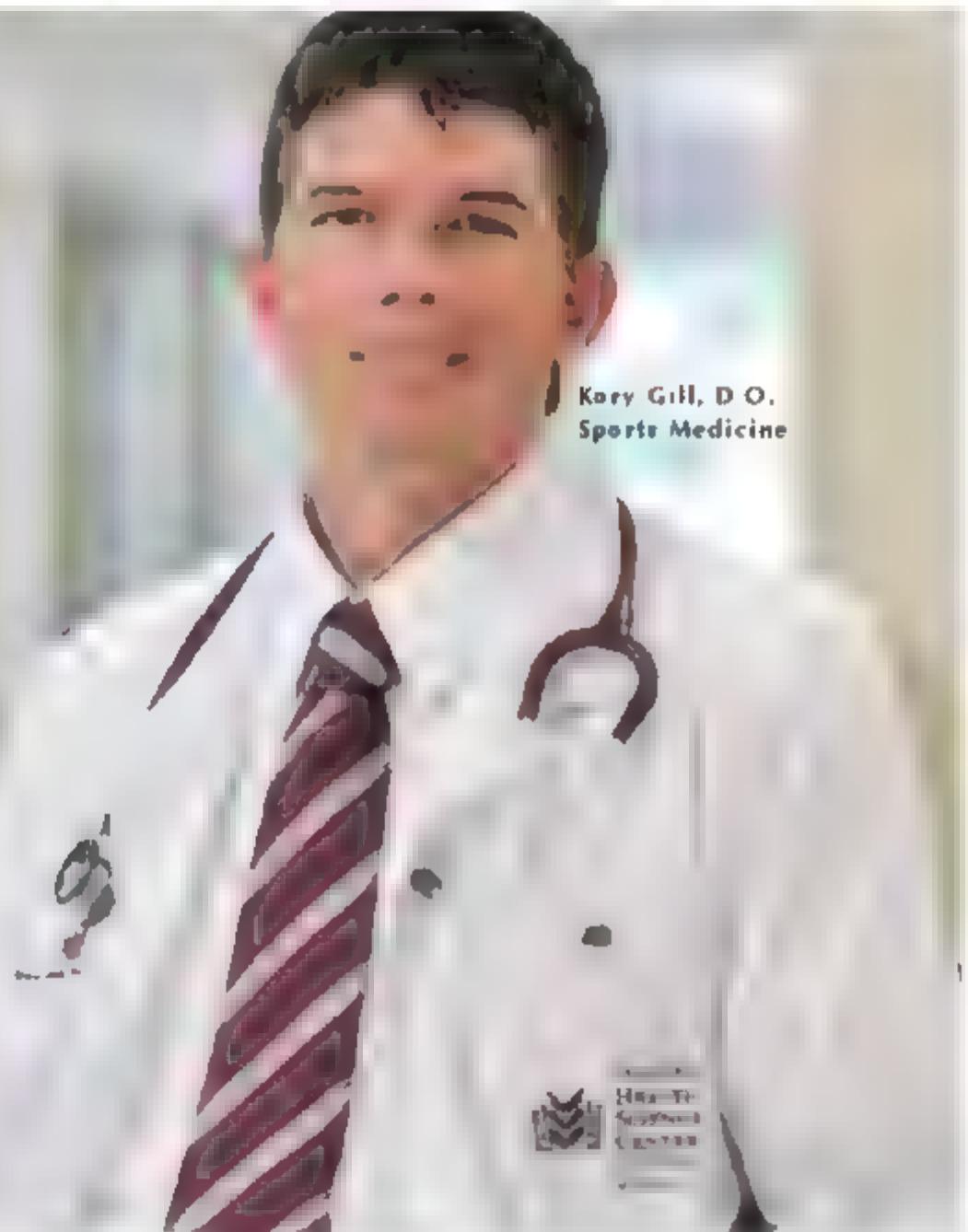
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EXCERPTS: KEVIN GONZALEZ AND ERIC GONZALEZ

Favorite Olsen tradition...

KG: The train. Just because everyone

GA: Ball four, ball five, ball six... big effect on the game

Favorite baseball movie...

KG: Bull Durham

GA: A League of Their Own

Favorite pitcher to catch for...

KG: Tim Lincecum

GA: Tim Lincecum

Do you ever shake off Coach Childress' calls?

KG: No, not unless we're in a

GA: No, not unless we're in a

You don't have that option?

KG: No, not unless we're in a

Favorite Aggie baseball moment...

KG: The 2008 season

GA: The 2008 season

Game-winning hit or a game-winning play at the plate...

KG: It depends

GA: It depends

Do you take it personally if someone steals?

KG: Yes, but I think that's the best

GA: Yes

Funniest guy in the clubhouse...

KG: Josh Cohen, our trainer. That's without

What makes him funny?

KG: He's a clown

GA: He's a clown

Best place you've played baseball outside of Olsen...

KG: The 2008 season

GA: The 2008 season

GONZALEZ



GA

e played in was the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, so it's pretty awesome how every

Superstitions or pre-game rituals...

KG: I don't shave

before a game because when I grew up

GA

line I always make sure to step over it if it doesn't bother me, but if I know I do it, then it bothers me

What do you say to calm a pitcher down?

GA: Tell him to relax and get after the zone. A lot of times if pitchers are just tight and that's a lot of the reason that

KG

they are scared or if they are not around the zone, I just get on to them. But if not, I just stand there and tell them "hey you're trying to throw too hard

GA

KG: I just tell them to keep outs and not trying to get them out over there

GA

KG: I just tell them to keep it simple

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100 THINGS WE LEARNED FROM SPRING FOOTBALL

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

Preparing for one of the program's most highly anticipated seasons in recent history, the Texas Aggie football team had a solid spring camp that featured a noticeable increase of speed and physicality all over the field. Here are ten things we learned from spring football 2011...

THE D-LINE IS GOING TO BE STOUT

It's hard to believe a position that was nearly depleted before Mike Sherman arrived has suddenly transformed into such a position of strength. Tony Jerod-Eddie looked like a man on a mission this spring, and is poised to have the type of senior campaign that will send him shooting up NFL draft boards this time next year. Starters Jerod-Eddie, Eddie Brown and Jonathan Mathis look like men among boys, and a bevy of promising young talent behind them are sure to make them earn their keep. Kirby Ennis, Ben Bass, Stephen Barrera, Ivan Robinson and Gavin Stansbury all showed marked improvement this spring, and the Ags will only get better with the arrival of big LaMarc Strahan this fall.

THE O-LINE IS GOING TO BE STOUT TOO

Not to sound like a broken record, but it truly is hard to believe a position that was nearly depleted before Mike Sherman arrived has suddenly transformed into a position of strength. The Ags

have found themselves in a position that every football program would kill for (especially our friends in Austin). Even when the second team would take the field, the Aggies looked like a team that was physically ready to manhandle whatever or whoever was in front of them. The search for Matt Allen's replacement wasn't found until the end of spring when Patrick Lewis, a two-year starter at guard and the most experience lineman among the group, mastered his new role.

C-MIKE IS BACK

We have to preface this by saying that Cyrus Gray looked like the senior leader and captain that we knew he would be this spring, toting the rock with a purpose and physically transforming his body into a chiseled specimen. But any questions surrounding the health of Christine Michael and the broken leg he suffered at the end of last season were officially answered this spring. Even with a slight limp, C-Mike looked like he never missed a beat out there. It's safe to assume that Gray will be the featured back this fall after his outstanding performance during the second half of the 2010 season, but a re-born Michael will not wait quietly in the wings.

THE BACKUP QB RACE CONTINUES

In our last issue, one of our burning questions for this spring was to find a suitable backup for Ryan Tannehill next fall. None of the other quarterbacks on the roster – redshirt freshmen Jameill Showers and Matt Joeckel, as well as true freshman Johnny Manziel – have ever taken a live snap at the collegiate level. That's a scary thought, considering any of them is only "one play away" from taking over the reigns full time. While none of the young guns emerged as the unquestionable backup, each brought their own strengths to the table. Joeckel probably has the best grasp on the offense. Showers has the biggest arm on campus (by a





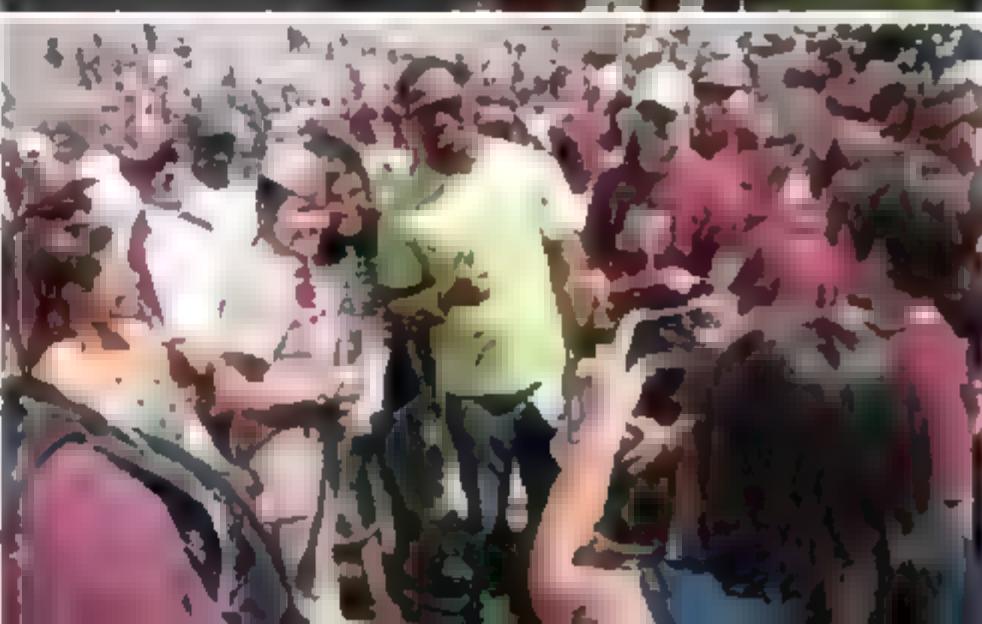
when Sherman discovered him, went on to rack up sacks, forced fumbles and tackle for loss statistics that most could only dream of. This spring, however, the coaches challenged him on a daily basis in order to fill the void left by Miller and transform Moore into the same type of All-American that they know he can become. At times, Moore would find himself down the depth chart and having to re-earn his starting role. The rest of the team took notice, and Moore will undoubtedly remember the lesson come fall.

THE DESOTO FACTOR IS STILL IN EFFECT

When the Aggies signed Von Miller, Cyrus Gray, Tony Jerod-Eddie and Garrick Williams out of DeSoto high school just a few years ago, they knew they had some special prospects on their hands. What they probably didn't know, however, was that those four prospects, teammates and best friends would go on to transform the squad from cellar dwellers of the Big 12 to South Division Champions as well as legitimate conference and national title contenders during their tenure in Aggieland. A special group of players that share a very special bond, the "DeSoto effect" will live on in infamy among the Aggie faithful, and will carry on in the Aggie locker room for years to come.

WE STILL LOVE VON MILLER

Just in case you weren't aware, we're pretty big fans of Von Miller. What a privilege it was to watch the talented but raw and sometimes seemingly uncoachable young pup transform into a polite, upstanding, team-first man. Above all, No. 40 possessed the kind of "will to win" that coaches dream of, and we'll forever cherish the memories Miller provided. To see him come home to Aggieland for the spring game and sign countless autographs just weeks before he heard his name called at the 2011 NFL Draft was a bittersweet moment. We're so happy for him, but boy will we miss him. ■



pretty wide margin). And Manziel just has the "it" factor when the lights come on. The verdict is still out on this battle.

MORE DEPTH NEEDED IN THE SECONDARY

There's no question that the Aggies are much deeper across the board, but with Steven Campbell, Coryell Judie, Terrence Frederick and Lionel Smith all having to sit out spring drills due to injury, it was obvious that the Ags still have some filling of the roster to do in the defensive secondary. On a positive note, however, some of the younger players got a chance to prove their worth, such as Toney Hurd, Jr., who was moved back to his natural position at corner after being forced into action as a safety last season. Although he gave up nearly half a foot to Jeff Fuller, Hurd constantly challenged the All-Big 12 receiver and gave him fits at the line of scrimmage with his physical style of play.

THE PUNTER JOB REMAINS WIDE OPEN

Unfortunately, whatever questions the Aggies had at punter this spring remained unanswered, as the inconsistency that plagued the maroon and white last fall spilled over into the month of April. As best as we could tell, the starting nod is still up for grabs, and incoming freshman Drew Kaser will undoubtedly have every chance to pick up the starting role as soon as he steps on campus.

THERE ARE OPTIONS AT INSIDE LINEBACKER

In the Cotton Bowl, it was evident when Michael Hodges went down that the Aggies would have a lot of searching to do this spring to find a suitable replacement for the All-Big 12 linebacker. There's good news and bad news. First the bad: No one seemed to emerge as the odds-on favorite to land the starting role. Now the good: A lot of young players showed promise throughout the spring. True freshman Donnie Baggs, a midterm graduate, was arguably the most pleasant surprise all spring, arriving with the physical prowess of an upperclassman and a nose for the football that great linebackers are born with.

NO JOB IS SECURE

When Von Miller was getting a spell on the sidelines last season, a promising true freshman, Damontre Moore, would take the field in place of the Aggie All-American. Moore, a long, raw prospect that hadn't played hardly a down of varsity football

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Mike Phillips
DEFENSIVE LINE

X
SS

X
JOKER

X
ILB

X
OLB

X
CB

X
CB

X
RDE

X
NT

X
LDE

WR-X



Jeff Fuller
WR
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

WR-Y



Ryon Swope
WR
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

LT



Luke Joeckel
LT
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

LG



Brian Thomas
LG
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

C



Patrick Lewis
C
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

RG



Evan Eells
RG
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

RT



Jake Matthews
RT
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

TE



Nehemiah Hicks
TE
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

WR-Z



Jezoma Nwachukwu
WR
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

RB



Cyrus Gray
RB
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

QB



Ryan Tannehill
QB
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

FB



Michael Lamothe
FB
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

OFFENSIVE COACHES

Mike Sherman - Head Coach
Tom Rossiter - Quarterbacks
Randy Jordan - Running Backs
Troy Walters - Wide Receivers
Jim Turner - Offensive Line

SPECIAL TEAMS

K

Randy Bullock
K
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

P

Ken Wood
P
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

PR

Kenric McNeal
PR
Mike McDaniel
SPECIAL TEAMS

KR

Coryell Judice
KR
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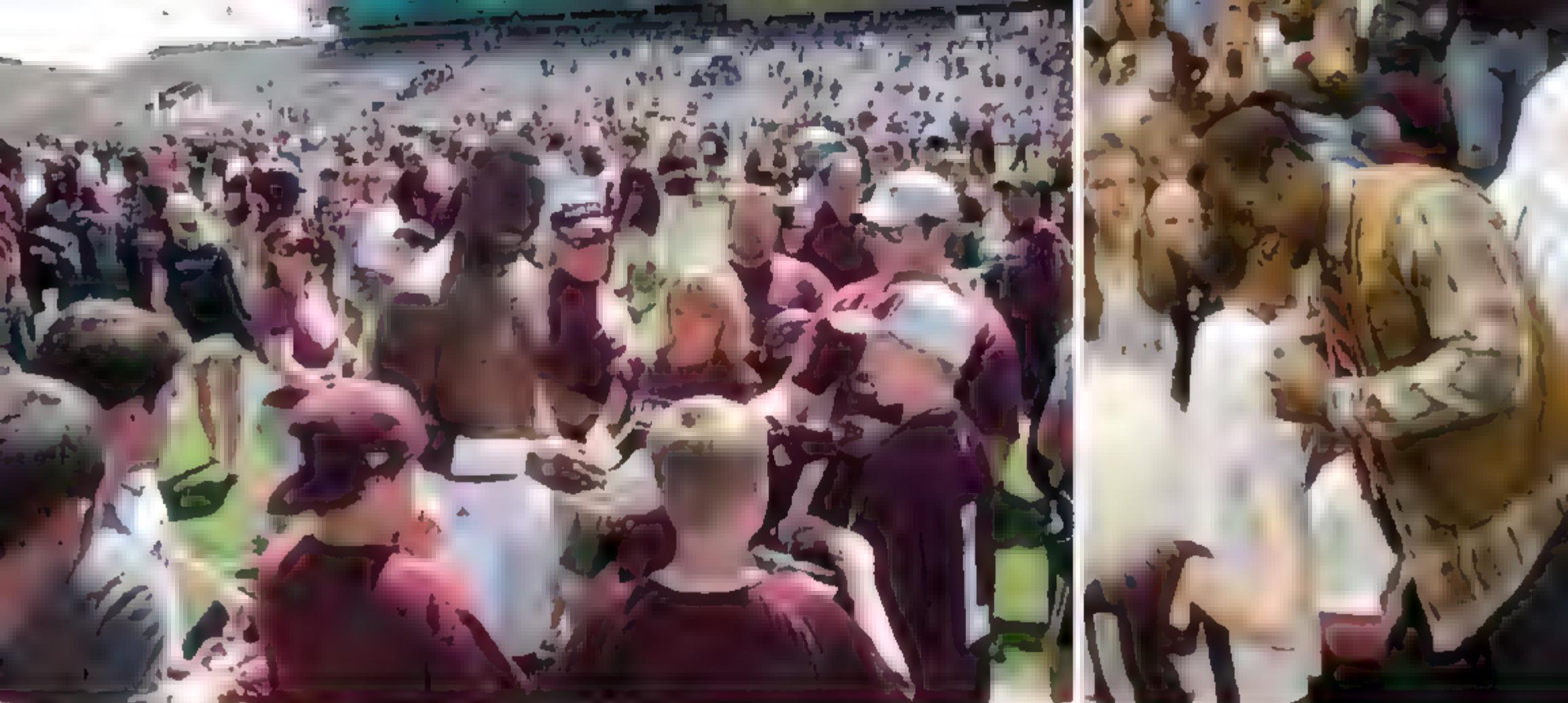
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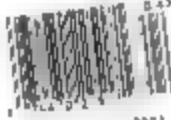
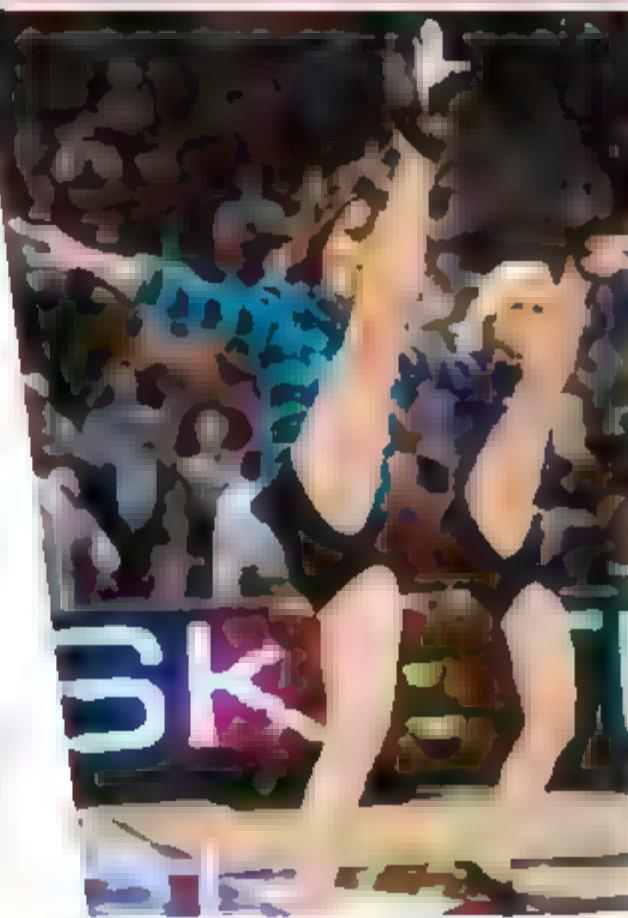
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Aggieland

(above) 107 students and 907 alumni give their time and energy to Aggieland. Their decision to follow in Miller's footsteps and return to A&M for his senior year remains the most important development for the football program over the last year. (left) Nathan Wallup sings the Aggie War Hymn with his parents following A&M's victory over Penn State on senior day; the leadership and toughness of the outgoing seniors will be difficult for the freshmen to replace. (right) Third-grader Ty Polk's winning drawing in the first A&M Junior Aggie Club Drawing Competition (right) The Young Aggie cheer team (left) and the Junior Aggie Wranglers (right) entertain fans at Reed Arena. (bottom) Young Aggielanders sing the War Hymn after the Missouri-Mississippi game.



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WOMEN'S RUGBY

They come from Missouri, Maryland, Texas, Virginia and even Mexico. They have different majors, are from different high schools, and come from different backgrounds. But they all have two things in common – their friendship and their love for the sport of rugby.

Rugby is not one of the highest profiled sports in the United States. In fact, very few high schools sponsor a rugby program. However, each member of the Texas A&M Women's Rugby Club was drawn to the sport after arriving in College Station, and with this unique sport they found something that each of them is passionate about.

Just two of the club's 24 girls played rugby in high school. Fifteen are allowed on the field during a game. There are 8 forwards numbered 1-8 who primarily defend their territory and form the scrum – a frequent occurrence in a rugby match when both teams come together and are pushing against one another to contest for the ball. The forwards are equivalent to linemen in football. The rest of the players are the backs, and like running backs in football, are the faster players primarily responsible for moving the ball forward and scoring. However, unlike American football, all 15 players are allowed to touch the ball during the game.

One thing that each player stresses during a game is the importance of teamwork. Everyone pulls a certain amount of weight and, because there are no timeouts, they must be able to effectively communicate while on the field.

The club has traveled far and wide to play, from California and Colorado to Georgia and Florida. However, their favorite destination was an eight-day ad-

venture to England over spring break in 2010. Even though it was raining and they had to play in mud that clung to their cleats for weeks to come, the experience was something they will never forget.

Typically the top rugby club in Texas, the Aggies have had tremendous success regionally and nationally over the years. In 2010, they qualified for the National Round of 16 after winning the Western Rugby Football Union D1 championship. Their 2011 season ended with two disappointing losses at the West playoffs in Norman, OK in March.

Their success can be attributed to focusing on the keys of a good rugby team – fitness, knowing your teammates and communicating effectively with them. Every member of the team takes pride in being a part of the family that is the Texas A&M Women's Rugby Club.

GYMNASTICS

Following in the footsteps of the Aggie women's basketball program, the Texas A&M Gymnastics Club brought another national championship home to Aggieland this spring. Competing against 50 schools at the 2011 NAIGC National Championships in Richmond, VA, the men won first and the women finished second in team competitions. The Aggies also won several individual titles in a field of more than 500 competitors.

National championships are nothing new to A&M gymnastics. The women's team claimed the title from 2007-2010, while the men had been on the verge of making it to the top until winning this year. One of the oldest clubs in Texas A&M's history, it has also been one of the most successful.

While only 25 went to nationals, more

than 50 students are active members of the club. Some are new to gymnastics and join as something to do for recreation, while others have been involved for much of their lives and are in it to compete – and win. For the latter like senior club president Constance Cuadra '11, that takes sacrifice and a great deal of commitment to be successful.

"Most of us are in the gym at least three hours every night," she said. "And a lot of our members balance gymnastics with really hard majors. We have a ton of engineers in the club, but everyone takes care of their schoolwork."

The club is a part of the Texas Gymnastics Conference and competes in five or six big meets a year, typically on the campuses of the larger schools in the state, including one in Aggieland at the Student Recreation Center. The girls compete in vault, balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise, while the men compete in rings, pommel horse, high bars and parallel bars in addition to vault and floor exercise.

Like Cuadra, Eli Richardson is one of the top performers on the team. In addition to leading the men's team to the title this year, the junior industrial engineering major has won the men's all-around individual competition at nationals for three years in a row.

For Richardson and Cuadra, the experience of being a part of the club is one they will never forget.

"We're all really good friends – inside and outside of the gym," Cuadra said. "Being a part of the club is like joining a network for life. Our former players come back for all of our meets. I'm so glad I joined."

Visit recsports.tamu.edu for more information about the Women's Rugby Club or the Gymnastics Club. ■



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HOME SWEET HOME



We all have that place where we go to unwind, catch up with friends or cram for the next exam. A place for business meetings, book clubs and job interviews. Places that have become so familiar to us that they provide a level of comfort similar to your favorite cup of coffee.

In Aggieland, Sweet Eugene's House of Java is that special place for many local patrons who love its eclectic style, delicious treats and genuine people. Fittingly, the idea for opening a place loved by so many Aggies was first hatched by Aaron Brown '91 and his brother, Matthew, while Aaron was in school at Texas A&M.

"I did a business plan for class over a coffee shop, not really thinking that anything would ever come from it, only that it caught my interest," Brown said.

Although he never expected to be a well-loved coffee shop owner, Brown soon found himself sitting down with his brother to discuss introducing Bryan/College Station to a great coffee shop – something that was unknown to the area at the time. In 1993, Sweet Eugene's served its first cup of Joe, and began its legacy.

Although local patrons affectionately refer to it as "Sweet's," not many people realize where the name actually comes from. In fact, many customers may be surprised to find out that there isn't really a "Eugene."

"We were throwing around ideas for names one day when we remembered a friend who had been nicknamed 'Sweet Eugene,'" Brown recalled. "The nickname came from someone mispronouncing his real name, so after that Eugene just stuck. It also was the best fit for our store, and we knew we wanted to avoid using the word 'coffee' in the name since it had been done so much."

Three years after opening its doors, Sweet Eugene's got its own coffee roaster, propelling the evolution of the business that

has provided Aggieland with some of its favorite natural coffee blends.

Not a traditional coffee drinker? That's not a problem at Sweet's where, like the name implies, there are plenty of sweet and unique specialty drinks (I highly recommend the White Chocolate Raspberry Truffle). And, if you're hungry, as a customer of Sweet Eugene's you will go away happy *and* full with a wide variety of doughnuts, sandwiches and crêpes (for breakfast, dessert or lunch).

"Our crêpes usually surprise people," Brown said. "They don't expect to be able to get one for lunch, too, but they're good."

Although the coffee shop has changed over the years, it maintains its core values – supply customers with exceptional service, quality and community. Brown considers the process truly evolutionary.

"When we started there weren't cell phones or laptops, so it was a lot quieter," he recalled. "We used to have a line of people waiting to use the pay phone, but in recent years we've had to install extra outlets for laptop power cords."

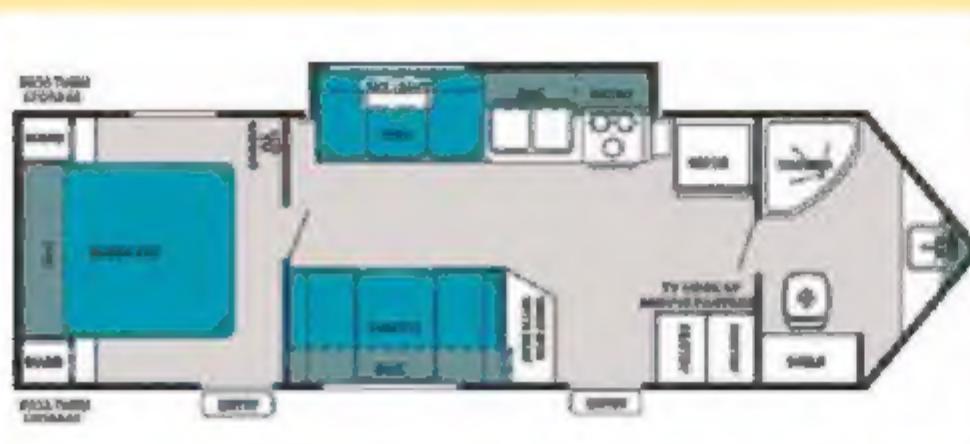
In a town stemmed from tradition, Sweet's customers have some all their own. Whether you get your favorite drink every time you're there, make a point of dropping by while in town or always sit at your favorite table by the window, Sweet's has become a tradition in a traditional town.

"I just love the fact that we live in a town with a school that bases itself in tradition," Brown said.

There are certain things that comfort us, make us happy and provide a sense of relief when life becomes overwhelming. Sometimes that is found in a familiar face, a good conversation or even a warm cup of coffee. When you walk into the doors of Sweet Eugene's, you will find everything you need laced through the hum of the coffee roaster and chatter of content customers. It feels just like home sweet home. ■

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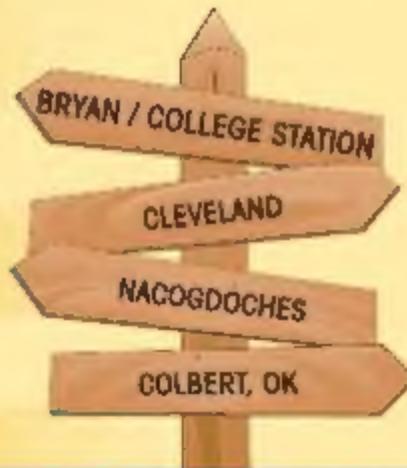


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GLEN'S GREAT EIGHT

6. Big Day for Big John, 1989

John Byington hit two ninth-inning home runs to beat the Longhorns twice in a 1989 doubleheader, leading the Aggies to the Southwest Conference Championship. "This was one of my favorite shots from a memorable day." - Glen Johnson

*In each issue of Volume 5 of *AI*, we are excited to share eight of Glen Johnson's most memorable moments from photographing all things Aggie. Glen has been the official photographer of Texas A&M Athletics since 1981. Special thanks to Glen for his contribution.*

PHOTO BY GLEN JOHNSON



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